



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/905,790	07/13/2001	Chih-Hsien Chung	B-4244 618939-9	4911

7590

03/24/2005

Richard P. Berg, Esq.
LADAS & PARRY
Suite 2100
5670 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90036-5679

EXAMINER

HENN, TIMOTHY J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2612

DATE MAILED: 03/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/905,790	Applicant(s) CHUNG, CHIH-HSIEN	
	Examiner Timothy J Henn	Art Unit 2612	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 July 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 July 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. **It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.**

2. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 2, 4, 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Maemori (US 4,837,817).

[claim 1]

Regarding claim 1, Maemori discloses an image forming apparatus (Figure 3) comprising: an interface unit (Figure 3, Items 10 and 25) outputting a control signal in accordance with a sensing signal from a sensor (Figure 3, Item 8; c. 2, ll. 16-23; c. 3, ll. 6-9), an image capturing unit for capturing an image (Figure 3, Item 1) and a driving unit (e.g. Figure 3, Items 6 and 20) detachably coupled (Figures 2 and 3, Items 6, 10, 11a, 11b and 12; c. 2, ll. 6-15) to the interface unit, wherein the driving unit has an input unit (Figure 3, Item 6) receiving the control signal for driving the image capturing unit in accordance with the control signal (e.g. c. 2, ll. 6-33 and ll. 58-64). The examiner notes that the output signals of the interface unit 25 must inherently be "in a predetermined format" if the action requested by the user who is manipulating the remote controller 9 is to be carried about by the image capturing unit 1.

[claim 2]

Regarding claim 2, Maemori discloses a first coupling apparatus (Figure 3, Item 10) provided in the interface unit, and a second coupling apparatus (Figure 3, Item 6) corresponding to the first coupling apparatus and detachably engaged in the first coupling apparatus is further provided in the driving unit (Figures 1-3).

[claim 4]

Regarding claim 4, Maemori discloses a storage unit for saving the image captured as an image record (c. 2, ll. 34-48).

[claim 8]

Regarding claim 8, Maemori discloses a sensor which comprises a switch (Figure 3, Item 8; c. 2, ll. 16-23).

Art Unit: 2612

[claim 9]

Regarding claim 9, the examiner notes that an external force would inherently be given to the switches described by Maemori to generate a control signal as claimed when the operator wishes to change the image sensing unit's operation (c. 2, ll. 16-23).

5. Claims 1-3 and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kawano (US 5,528,337).

[claim 1]

Regarding claim 1, Kawano discloses a still camera (e.g. an image forming apparatus) comprising: an interface unit (Figure 1, Item 30) outputting a control signal in a predetermined format to an output unit (Figure 1, Item 35) in accordance with a sensing signal from a sensor (Figure 4, Item 31); an image capturing unit for capturing an image (Figure 4, Item 11); and a driving unit (e.g. Figure 4, Item 41), wherein the driving unit has an input unit (e.g. Figure 1, Item 16) receiving the control signal for driving the image capturing unit in accordance with the control signal (c. 2, ll. 43-56).

[claim 2]

Regarding claim 2, Kawano discloses a first coupling apparatus (Figure 1, Item 32) provided in the interface unit, and a second coupling apparatus (Figure 1, Item 25) corresponding to the first coupling apparatus and detachably engaged in the first coupling apparatus is further provided in the driving unit.

[claim 3]

Regarding claim 3, Kawano discloses sticking structures (e.g. the guide grooves shown in Figure 1, Items 32 and 25).

[claim 14]

Regarding claim 14, Kawano discloses a signal generator for controlling an image forming apparatus, the image forming apparatus capturing a control signal in a predetermined format (Figure 1); the signal generator comprising: a sensor generating a sensing signal in accordance with environmental variations (Figure 1, Item 31); and an interface device detachably coupled to the image forming apparatus, the interface device generating the control signal in accordance with the sensing signal (Figure 4, Item 30).

[claims 15-16]

Regarding claims 15-16, see claims 2-3.

6. Claims 1 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Park (US 5,155,474).

[claim 1]

Park discloses an image forming apparatus comprising: an interface unit (Figure 3, Items 60 and 66) outputting a control signal in a predetermined format to an output unit in accordance with a sensing signal from a sensor (Figure 3, Item 10); an image capturing unit for capturing an image (Figure 1, Item 40); and a driving unit detachably coupled to the interface unit, wherein the driving unit having an input unit (e.g. shutter button) receiving the control signal for driving the image capturing unit in accordance

Art Unit: 2612

with the control signal (The examiner notes that camera 40 inherently includes a "driving unit" which drives the camera when the control signal (e.g. pressing the shutter button down) is received).

[claim 14]

Regarding claim 14, Park discloses a signal generator for controlling an image forming apparatus, the image forming apparatus captures a control signal in a predetermined format (Figures 2 and 3), the signal generator comprises: a sensor generating a sensing signal in accordance with environmental variations (Figure 3, Item 10); and an interface device detachably coupled to the image forming apparatus, the interface device generating the control signal in accordance with the sensing signal (Figures 2 and 3, Items 60 and 66).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 5, 6, 7, 13, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawano (US 5,528,337).

[claim 5]

Regarding claim 5, Kawano discloses all limitations except for storing images in a digital format. Official Notice is taken that it is notoriously well known in the art to save

Art Unit: 2612

images in digital format (e.g. a digital camera) instead of in an analog format (e.g. film) to reduce the costs associated with processing the image. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to store the image in a digital format to reduce the costs associated with processing the image.

[claim 6]

Regarding claim 6, Kawano discloses emitting an infrared beam when button 31 is depressed and actuating the shutter mechanism when the infrared beam is received (i.e. an impulse signal).

[claim 7]

Regarding claim 7, Kawano discloses a sensor which is a pressure sensor (i.e. a switch; Figure 1, Item 31, Figure 4).

[claim 13]

Regarding claim 13, Kawano discloses all limitations except for digital camera. Official Notice is taken that it is notoriously well known in the art to save images in digital format (e.g. a digital camera) instead of in an analog format (e.g. film) to reduce the costs associated with processing the image. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to adapt the camera of Kawano to be a digital camera to reduce the costs associated with processing the images which it creates.

[claims 17 and 18]

Regarding claims 17 and 18, see claims 6 and 7.

9. Claims 10, 11, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Park et al. (US 5,155,474). in view of Puchek et al. (US 6,496,595).

[claim 10]

Regarding claim 10, Park discloses all limitations except for a sensor which is an image identify device. Puchek discloses recording information from a security camera based on the output of a fingerprint sensor (e.g. an image identify device) in order to record unauthorized access attempts for later viewing (Figure 3; c. 8, l. 57 - c. 9, l. 3). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a sensor which is an image identify device in the security system of Park in order to record only unauthorized access attempts for later viewing instead of all access attempts (i.e. anytime motion is detected) so that the security personal is only shown relevant images (c. 10, ll. 16 -23).

[claim 11]

Regarding claim 11, Puchek discloses an image identify device which generates the sensing signal corresponding to a result form comparing the image (i.e. persons fingerprint) with a predetermined pattern (e.g. authorized fingerprints) (c. 8, l. 57 - c. 9, l. 3).

[claims 19 and 20]

Regarding claims 19 and 20, see claims 10 and 11.

Art Unit: 2612

10. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maemori (US 4,837,817).

[claim 12]

Regarding claim 12, Maemori discloses all limitations except for an image capturing unit which is a digital video camera. Official Notice is taken that the use of digital video (DV) cameras is notoriously well known in the art to allow for simplified video editing by use of personal computers. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the video camera of Maemori a digital video camera to simplify video editing steps by use of personal computers.

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following further shows the current state of the art in controlling cameras based on sensor signals:

- | | | |
|------|---------------|--------------------|
| i. | White et al. | US 4,972,494 |
| ii. | Schubert | US 6,313,871 |
| iii. | Nguyen et al. | US 2002/0100053 A1 |
| iv. | Tao | US 6,549,239 |
| v. | Takahashi | US 2005/0036656 A1 |


Art Unit: 2612

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy J Henn whose telephone number is (571) 272-7310. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wendy R Garber can be reached on (571) 272-7308. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TJH
3/18/2005


WENDY R. GARBER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600